WE CLAIM:

1.     A method for managing a network device over a network, comprising:

receiving a request from a client device for access to an application associated with the network device;

establishing a session between a unified session manager and a management server associated with the application;

modifying the request at the unified session manager;

forwarding, by the unified session manager, the modified request to the management server;

receiving a response at the unified session manager from the management server;

modifying the response at the unified session manager; and

forwarding, by the unified session manager, the modified response to the client device.

2.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the request is authenticated by the unified session manager.

3.     The method of Claim 1, wherein establishing the session with the management server further comprises authenticating the unified session manager to the management server, wherein the authentication is virtually transparent to the client device.

4.     The method of Claim 1, wherein modifying the request further comprises translating a graphical user interface (GUI) message and, wherein modifying the response further comprises translating another graphical user interface (GUI) message.

5.     The method of Claim 4, wherein at least one of the GUI message and the other GUI message is translated into a unified format.

6.     The method of Claim 1, wherein modifying the request further comprises modifying a network address before forwarding the modified request, and wherein modifying the response further comprises modifying another network address before forwarding the modified response.

7.     The method of Claim 1, wherein modifying the response further comprises enabling a download of a file from the unified session manager.

8.     A unified session manager for managing a network device, comprising:

a transceiver configured to receive a request from a client for access to an application on the network device and to forward a response to the request;

a processor, coupled to the transceiver, that is configured to perform actions including:

establishing a session on behalf of the client between the unified session manager and a management server associated with the application;

modifying the request;

forwarding the modified request to the management server;

receiving the response on behalf of the client from the management server associated with the application;

modifying the response; and

forwarding the modified response from the management server to the transceiver.

9.     The unified session manager of Claim 8, wherein the processor is further configured to authenticate the request.

10.     The unified session manager of Claim 8, wherein the processor is further configured to authenticate to the management server, and wherein the authentication is virtually transparent to the client.

11.    The unified session manager of Claim 10, wherein the authentication to the management server further comprises sending at least one of a password, a certificate, and an encryption key.

12.    The unified session manager of Claim 8, wherein the processor is further configured to modify at least one of the request and the response by translating at least one GUI message.

13.    The unified session manager of Claim 8, wherein the unified session manager is configured to perform further actions, comprising:

establishing another session on behalf of the client with another application;

modifying another request;

forwarding the other modified request to the application;

receiving another response on behalf of the client from the application;

modifying the other response; and

forwarding the other modified response to the transceiver.

14.    The unified session manager of Claim 8, wherein the processor is further configured to enable a plurality of clients to access virtually simultaneously a plurality of applications on the network device.

15.    A method for managing a plurality of management servers, comprising:

establishing a session between a unified session manager and at least one of the plurality of the management servers, wherein the unified session manager is enabled to operate on behalf of at least one of a plurality of clients; and

modifying each message from the at least one of the plurality of clients destined for an application associated with the at least one of the plurality of the management servers, wherein the modification is virtually transparent to the client and to the management server.

16.     The method of Claim 15, wherein the unified session manager is enabled to operate on behalf of each of the plurality of clients seeking access to the at least one of the plurality of management servers.

17.     The method of Claim 15, wherein establishing the session between the unified session manager and the at least one of the plurality of the management servers further comprises performing an authentication to the at least one of the plurality of the management servers, and wherein the authentication is virtually transparent to the at least one of the plurality of the clients.

18.     The method of Claim 15, wherein modifying each message between the at least one of the plurality of the clients and the at least one of the plurality of the management servers further comprises at least one of wrapping a Java applet, and translating a URL.

19.     In a computer system having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device, a method for providing a selection menu on the display to manage a remote application over a network, comprising:
        retrieving a set of menu entries including at least one menu entry that is associated with the remote application;
        displaying the selection menu on the display comprising the set of menu entries;
        retrieving a menu entry selection signal, wherein the menu entry selection signal is modified by a unified session manager;
        forwarding the modified menu entry selection signal to a management server associated with the remote application;
        receiving another signal indicative of a response from the management server, wherein the other signal is modified by the unified session manager; and
        displaying the other modified signal at the display.

20.     The method of Claim 19, wherein the menu entry selection signal comprises, a request for authentication, and a request for a program download.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein modifying the menu entry selection signal further comprises translating a GUI message, altering a network address, and attaching additional information to the signal.

22. The method of Claim 19, wherein modifying the other signal, indicative of a response from the management server, further comprises translating a GUI message, altering a network address, and attaching additional information to the signal.

23. A device manager for managing a network device, comprising:

a means for establishing a session with a management server associated with an application on behalf of a remote client;

a means for modifying the request;

a first forwarding component configured to forward the modified request to the management server;

a means for receiving a response from the management server;

a means for modifying the response; and

a second forwarding component configured to forward the modified response to the remote client.